



For Randy Thueme (left), a challenging site speaks of opportunities. Here a cliffside location offered spectacular views and inspired a garden that appreciates the natural landscape while creating a diversity of outdoor living spaces. Above: Spa pool lined with glittering Bisazza tiles. Right: Gathering place with firepit and boulders for seating.

one to watch

Randy Thueme

FOR SAN FRANCISCO LANDSCAPE ARCHITECT RANDY Thueme, the proof (and the fun) is in the process. Known for his sensitivity to site and sophisticated interplay of materials, Randy is one of that rare breed of designers who can seamlessly knit together artistry and pragmatism. — **JENNY ANDREWS**

Q: *What sort of project gets your adrenaline pumping?*

A: One where all the components speak well to each other — landscape, architecture, interior design, lighting, art. I enjoy the process as much as the final result, and creating something wonderful no matter what the limiting parameters might be.

Q: *Your recent project in Carmel Highlands near Monterey, California, certainly had its challenges.*

A: Yes, most of the property is taken up by the house, a cliff and a drainage ravine, leaving only three-quarters of an acre to work with. But it's a spectacular site. Our goal was to respect this dramatic slice of the coastline while providing a variety of spaces, maximizing its potential without overdoing it. Also, outdoor-living features should be attractive even when not in use, and here the spa pool was lined with Bisazza glass tiles in a pattern inspired by a rug the clients own. Even a doghouse needs to be thought about, if it's going to be seen.

Q: *Your work seems to show that it's been touched by a designer, but not with a heavy hand.*

A: It takes a lot of effort to look effortless. We push the boundaries at the beginning and then refine, refine, refine until we have something that is buildable and affordable, and that also maintains our original design intent.

Q: *What is your most out-of-the-ordinary project?*

A: There's one under construction now in Pacific Heights where we're installing a 10-foot-high, 30-foot-long wall of copper, woven from foot-wide perforated bands. We wanted to do something unusual, and it will be like adding another room to the house even on this very small lot.



MATT MILLMAN (2), MARION BRENNER